

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/377,908

Examiner

Scott A Rogers

Applicant(s)

KONDO ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 23 November 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12 and 15-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 August 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11-23-2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


SCOTT ROGERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 13-14 drawn to separate and distinct inventions non-elected without traverse.

Accordingly, the application has been amended as follows:

Claims 13-14 have been cancelled.

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, which is in agreement with Applicants' remarks on pages 9-10 of the amendment filed 23 November 2004:

Referring to claims 1-10, 12, 15, and 17-21, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests in the claimed combinations, a feeding part that is adapted to feed a copy at a plurality of feeding speeds and a noise detecting part that determines that the image data outputted by a specific reading part among said plurality of reading parts contains streaky noises regardless of the feeding speed.

Referring to claims 16, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests in the claimed combinations, a copy fed by a feeding part that is adapted

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to feed the copy at a plurality of feeding speeds, comparing image data outputted by said plurality of reading parts regardless of the feeding speed.

Additional reasons for allowance of claims 12 and 15 were given in the prior Office action.

Referring to claims 11, reasons for allowance were given in the prior Office action.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

It is noted in Applicants' remarks filed 23 November 2004, on page 10, line 5, the language "page 1 of Applicants' Specification" was a typographical error and should have read "Furukawa et al".

Newly Cited Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Macey et al (US 6552829 B1 and US 6459509 B1) recognizes that uncorrected "wow and flutter" or other uncompensated long/short term changes in the specified bed velocity of the feed mechanism that moves the document through the CCD-array detector scan axis will cause reflectance-level artifacts, since the output voltage of a CCD array is dependent upon the detector exposure time. Unless corrected, even

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minor variations in the velocity of the document when traveling under the CCD-array detector scan axis can therefore lead to undesired artifacts and perturbations in the final sheet-image signal. Solves this problem of output image distortion by synchronizing the CCD sweep readout rate with the feeder bed velocity.

Horiuchi et al (US 6515774 B2 and US 6445469 B1) discloses a document-image reading device that can analyze a speed fluctuation state of a scanner when scanning an image in the feed direction by separately extracting speed fluctuation components by reading a change in density of reference scale lines and, on the basis of the analysis result, prevents the occurrence of an image blur that may be resulting from unstable factors of a driving mechanism.

Kawabata et al (US 5267059 A) addresses the problem of different tangential speeds of a two sheet transport rollers in a sheet scanner. The feeding speed changes at a border between a first section where the sheet is fed by only the feed roller and a second section where the paper is fed by only the eject roller. The first tangential speed of the first roller lower than a second tangential speed of the second roller so that each paper is spaced at a regular interval from the next paper. But, the lines in the first section of an image on the sheet are scanned at a first feeding speed and those lines in the second section are scanned at a second feeding speed, so that the image to be scanned is blurred at the aforementioned border because a line density included in the image data is not kept constant. Kawabata et al discloses a sheet scanner that can make a line density for every line of the image data constant, said line density defined

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as scanned lines in a predetermined period divided by a tangential speed of feeding the paper at that time, by line density control through changing an initial speed of the first tangential speed to an initial speed of the second tangential speed when the front end of the paper is detected. Therefore, blurred scanning will never occur in the sheet scanner.

JP 2004221906 A discloses a scanner which compares pixel data of read images obtained from image sensors to determine abnormality of original document conveyance speed and changes calculated interpolation value of pixel data based on determined abnormality.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott A Rogers whose telephone number is 571-272-7467. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday & Wednesday 6:00am-6:00pm and Tuesday & Thursday 6:00am-2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached at 571-272-7471.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to TC2600 Customer Service at 571-272-2600. Official correspondence by facsimile should be sent to 703-872-9306. The USPTO contact Center phone numbers are 800-PTO-9199.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SCOTT ROGERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

04 April 2005